

Abstract

A drill pipe 10 comprises an elongate pipe section 12 having a substantially uniform pipe outer diameter 18 and a substantially uniform pipe inner diameter 20. A pin tool joint 14 is welded at one end to the pipe section, and a box tool joint 16 is welded to the other end of the pipe section. Each of the pin and box tool joints includes a thread for mating engagement and preferably first and second shoulders. The drill pipe has a ratio, R, which takes into consideration the pipe inner diameter, P_{ID}, the pipe outer diameter, P_{OD}, the tool joint inner diameter, TJ_{ID}, and the tool joint outer diameter, TJ_{OD}. This ratio may be expressed as:

$$R = \frac{(P_{ID} + TJ_{ID})}{(TJ_{OD} - P_{OD})}.$$

- 15 According to the present invention, this ratio is greater than 8.0, and is preferably from 8.1 to 8.5, thereby providing a drill pipe with desired strength and fluid flow capabilities.